

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 13 remain pending in the application, with Claim 12 being independent. Claims 12 and 13 have been amended herein.

The Office Action indicates that Fig. 13 should be designated as --Prior Art--. It should be noted, however, that a corrected drawing sheet labeling Fig. 13 as --Prior Art-- was submitted with the original divisional application papers on December 9, 2003. A copy of that corrected drawing sheet is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are requested.

Claim 13 was provisionally rejected under statutory double patenting in view of Claim 2 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/900,949 (the parent application). In view of the changes to independent Claim 12, discussed below, dependent Claim 13 cannot be said to claim the same invention as that of Claim 2 of the parent application. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection are requested.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,622,440 (Yamamoto et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,767,114 (Nishimoto) and U.S. Patent No. 5,961,234 (Uchikata). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 12, the present invention relates to an inkjet recording apparatus for discharging ink from a recording head to perform recording on a recording sheet. The recording apparatus includes a platen, a transporting roller, a proximal discharging roller and a distal discharging roller. The platen guides the recording sheet and is positioned opposite to the recording head. The transporting roller transports the recording sheet and is positioned upstream of the recording head relative to the transporting direction. The proximal discharging roller is attached to the platen for transporting the recording sheet and is positioned downstream of the recording head relative to the transporting direction. The proximal discharging roller has a shaft serving as a center of rotation formed of resin and a rubber roller portion for integrally rotating with the resin shaft to transport the recording sheet. The distal discharging roller is attached to the platen for transporting the recording sheet and is positioned downstream of the proximal discharging roller relative to the transporting direction. The distal discharging roller has a shaft serving as a center of rotation formed of metal and a rubber roller portion for integrally rotating with the metal shaft to transport the recording sheet.

Support for the changes to Claim 12 can be found in the specification at least at page 9, lines 11-16.

Yamamoto et al. describes a thermal transfer recording device having discharge roller pairs 53 and 54 for guiding the transport of a recording sheet during non-paper processing. As recognized by the Examiner, Yamamoto et al. does not disclose the specific materials of the proximal and distal discharging rollers recited in Claim 12.

Moreover, the discharge roller pairs 53 and 54 in Yamamoto et al. are not attached to a platen, as is also recited in independent Claim 12.

Thus, Yamamoto et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 12.

Nishimoto relates to a sheet feeder and merely describes that driven rollers for contacting a drive discharge roller can be made of rubber or a material coated with rubber. There is no disclosure of proximal and distal discharging rollers attached to a platen or of a proximal discharge roller having a shaft formed of resin and a distal discharging roller having a shaft formed of metal. Accordingly, Nishimoto fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yamamoto et al. noted above with respect to independent Claim 12.

Uchikata relates to a sheet conveying apparatus and describes a conventional recording apparatus having a convey roller or member having spur-shaped projections on its outer peripheral surface and made of metal or resin. In the detailed description, a recording sheet can be pinched between sheet discharge roller 41 and spurs 42. Uchikata does not disclose both proximal and distal discharging rollers attached to a platen and does not disclose or suggest that among proximal and distal discharging rollers, the proximal discharging roller has a shaft formed of resin and the distal discharging roller has a shaft formed of metal. Accordingly, Uchikata also fails to remedy the deficiencies of the citations noted above with respect to the independent claim.

Thus, independent Claim 12 is patentable over the citations of record.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 12. Dependent Claim 13 is also allowable, in its own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 12. Individual consideration of Claim 13 is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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